



# The Shawnee Quarterly

The Shawnee National Forest NEPA Newsletter with the Schedule of Proposed Actions  
January, 2016

## HAPPY NEW YEAR !

**"The Shawnee Quarterly"** is the Shawnee National Forest's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) newsletter. The Quarterly is published four times a year: January, April, July, and October. It provides planning information on the management and use of the Forest and includes a copy of the Forest's Schedule of Proposed Actions.

The Schedule of Proposed Actions lists activities proposed or in progress that require consideration under NEPA prior to implementation. The purpose of the Schedule of Proposed Actions is to provide early, informal, notice of proposed projects so that you can be aware of Forest activities, indicate your interest in specific projects, and be involved early in the environmental analysis and documentation process. The schedule also provides information associated with the status of environmental analysis or planning of ongoing projects.

New projects are listed with the **\*NEW LISTING\*** identifier in the title box on the Schedule of Proposed Actions. You can become part of the decision-making process by commenting on all projects that interest you. Projects are sorted in tables by nation-wide projects, the Supervisor's Office (for Forest-wide projects), or by the Ranger District where the action is proposed. The name of a contact is provided with each project and comments or questions should be directed to this contact person.

### **SCOPING FOR PROJECTS EXPECTED TO BE CATEGORICALLY EXCLUDED:**

Projects listed in the Schedule of Proposed Actions followed by **"CE"** are expected to be categorically excluded from extensive analysis under NEPA. In an effort to conserve resources by avoiding duplicative mass-mailings, and commensurate with their expected scope and intensity, the Forest announces scoping for these projects in this Quarterly newsletter. Sufficient details of proposals are provided to enable comments on the projects. If you wish to receive further information on any project, please contact the individual listed.

**New projects** listed in this month's Schedule of Proposed Actions that are expected to be categorically excluded include three permit requests for access roads:

G.G. Road Permit	0.25 miles	Pope County
K.M. Road Permit	0.3 miles	Gallatin County
T.P. Road Permit	0.6 miles	Hardin County

**Natural Area Restoration at Six Sites.** Landscape-scale prescribed burns and selective tree and shrub removal are being proposed to resume the restoration of the following natural areas: Copperous Branch, Gibbons Creek, Leisure City, Pleasant Valley, Whoopie Cat and Wolf Creek. Project Contact, Elizabeth Shimp, [eshimp@fs.fed.us](mailto:eshimp@fs.fed.us), 618-658-2111.





United States Department of Agriculture

## **PLEASE NOTE:**

On **April 1, 2016** we will begin sending you the *Shawnee Quarterly* and all NEPA notices via e-mail only. To ensure that you continue to receive the *Quarterly* and NEPA notices, please send us your name and e-mail address, with "E-DELIVERY" on the subject line, to:

**[COMMENTS-EASTERN-SHAWNEE@FS.FED.US](mailto:COMMENTS-EASTERN-SHAWNEE@FS.FED.US)**.

**If you do not have e-mail,**  
**please notify us at (618) 253-1016.**

### **2016 Motor Vehicle Use Maps**

The latest Forest Motor Vehicle Use map will soon be available on our website. Changes to the 2016 map include corrections to road jurisdictions and lengths. Paper copies of the map will be available soon after the first of the year. When posted, the map can be seen at: [www.fs.usda.gov/main/shawnee/home](http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/shawnee/home). If you require further information, please contact Cynthia Morris at [cmorris02@fs.fed.us](mailto:cmorris02@fs.fed.us) or (618) 253-7114.

**How you can become involved:** Read through the list of proposed projects. To comment on a project or be placed on the project mailing list, call or write the contact person. You may also comment during the scoping or comment periods on environmental assessments (EA) or environmental impact statements (EIS). Thank you for reviewing this list of projects and planned or recent decisions. We appreciate your interest in the management of the Shawnee National Forest.

### ***Privacy of your Comments***

Comments received as part of the NEPA process, including the names and addresses of those who comment, are considered part of the public record of a proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Pursuant to 7 CRF 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission

from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act permits such confidentiality.

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Forest  
Service

Shawnee National Forest  
50 Hwy 145 South, Harrisburg, IL 62946  
(618) 253-7114  
[www.fs.usda.gov/shawnee](http://www.fs.usda.gov/shawnee)



## Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA)

01/01/2016 to 03/31/2016

### Shawnee National Forest

This report contains the best available information at the time of publication. Questions may be directed to the Project Contact.

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
<b>Shawnee National Forest, Forestwide (excluding Projects occurring in more than one Forest)</b>					<b>R9 - Eastern Region</b>
<b>Natural Area Restoration at Six Sites</b> CE  *NEW LISTING*	- Special area management - Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Fuels management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 01/2016	Expected:02/2016	03/2016	Elizabeth Shimp 618-658-2111 eshimp@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Landscape-scale prescribed burns and selective tree and shrub removal are being proposed to restore the following natural areas: Copperous Branch, Gibbons Creek, Leisure City, Pleasant Valley, Whoopie Cat and Wolf Creek.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=48531">http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=48531</a>				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Shawnee National Forest All Units. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Alexander, Hardin, Pope. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Alexander, Hardin, and Pope Counties.				
<b>Shawnee National Forest Hidden Springs Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)</b>					<b>R9 - Eastern Region</b>
<b>C.M. Special-Use Permit Issuance</b> CE  *UPDATED*	- Special use management	Completed	Actual: 10/23/2015	11/2015	Robert Monroe 618-658-2111 robertmonroe@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> The decision would issue a new permit to allow for the construction, use and maintenance of a 600 foot by 20 foot or 0.11 mile, right-of-way (ROW) across Forest land for ingress and egress to private property.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=47806">http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=47806</a>				
<b>Camp Thirsty Stables Outfitting and Guiding Permit</b> CE  *UPDATED*	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Hidden Springs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Gallatin. LEGAL - NWSE Section 32, Township 9 South, Range 8 East, 3rd P.M. About 2 miles south of Equality.				
	- Recreation management - Special use management	Completed	Actual: 11/04/2015	11/2015	Robert Monroe 618-658-2111 robertmonroe@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> We are contemplating issuing a permit near Eddyville, Illinois. Camp Thirsty Stables offers a three bedroom rental home to their customers, they can accommodate about ten overnight customers at one time.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=47808">http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=47808</a>				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Hidden Springs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Pope. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Near Eddyville, Illinois.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Shawnee National Forest Hidden Springs Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)		R9 - Eastern Region			
Cretaceous Hills Ecological Restoration EIS  *UPDATED*	- Forest products - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Fuels management	In Progress: NOI in Federal Register 10/10/2014 Est. DEIS NOA in Federal Register 02/2016	Expected:09/2016	10/2016	Leonard Pitcher 6186581302 lpitcher@fs.fed.us
	Description: This project proposes about 3,000 acres of pine thinning, 15,000 acres of prescribed fire, treatment of invasive species, maintenance of barren habitats, development of vernal ponds and roadwork.				
	Web Link: <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=45129">http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=45129</a>				
	Location: UNIT - Hidden Springs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Massac, Pope. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Southeastern Pope and eastern Massac Counties About 7 miles south- southwest of Golconda, Illinois.				
G.G. Road Permit CE  *NEW LISTING*	- Special use management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 01/2016	Expected:03/2016	04/2016	Angela Kelley 618-658-1318 ajkelley@fs.fed.us
	Description: A proposal to develop a new right-of-way (ROW) across 0.25 miles of Shawnee National Forest land, in Pope County, Illinois. The ROW would connect private land to Bushwhack Road.				
	Web Link: <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=48489">http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=48489</a>				
	Location: UNIT - Hidden Springs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Pope. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Off of Bushwhack Road in Pope County.				
K.M. Access Road Permit CE  *NEW LISTING*	- Special use management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 01/2016	Expected:03/2016	04/2016	Angela Kelley 618-658-1318 ajkelley@fs.fed.us
	Description: A proposal to develop a new right-of-way (ROW) across 0.03 miles of National Forest land in Gallatin County, Illinois. The ROW would connect private land to Forest Service Road 108.				
	Web Link: <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=48492">http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=48492</a>				
	Location: UNIT - Hidden Springs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Gallatin. LEGAL - Not Applicable. South of Equality.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
<b>Shawnee National Forest Hidden Springs Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)</b>					<b>R9 - Eastern Region</b>
<b>Lee Mine Hardwood Restoration</b> EA *UPDATED*	- Forest products - Vegetation management (other than forest products)	In Progress: Scoping Start 08/24/2014 Est. Comment Period Public Notice 01/2016	Expected:05/2016	07/2016	Leonard Pitcher 6186581302 lpitcher@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> The proposal includes: 1)Commercial timber sale to thin 681 acres of pine; 2)Timber-stand improvement on 681 acres of smaller, shade-tolerant species; 3)About 1500 acres of prescribed fire 4)Small wetland creation; 5)Road maintenance <b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=45123">http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=45123</a>				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Hidden Springs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Hardin. LEGAL - Not Applicable. About two miles south and east of Karbers Ridge, Illinois.				
<b>Lusk Creek Canoe Launch</b> EA *UPDATED*	- Recreation management - Facility management	In Progress: Scoping Start 04/15/2015 Est. Comment Period Public Notice 05/2016	Expected:08/2016	09/2016	Heather Carey 618-658-1330 hcarey@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> This proposal would develop a canoe launch area on Lusk Creek near the bridge on the Eddyville blacktop. <b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=47072">http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=47072</a>				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Hidden Springs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Pope. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Near the luck Creek bridge on the Eddyville Blacktop.				
<b>T.P. Access Special Use Permit</b> CE *NEW LISTING*	- Special use management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 01/2016	Expected:02/2016	03/2016	Angela Kelley 618-658-1318 ajkelley@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Mr. Perkins is requesting to reconstruct a proposed right-of-way (ROW) across 0.6 miles of Shawnee National Forest land, located at Section 27, Township 11 South, Range 10 East, 3rd P.M., Hardin County, Illinois. <b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=48487">http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=48487</a>				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Hidden Springs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Hardin. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Section 27, Township 11 South, Range 10 East, 3rd P.M., Hardin County, Illinois.				

<b>Shawnee National Forest</b>	<b>Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)</b>	<b>R9 - Eastern Region</b>
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Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Shawnee National Forest		Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)			R9 - Eastern Region
Big Muddy River Bottoms Habitat Improvement II EA  *UPDATED*	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Vegetation management (other than forest products)	In Progress: Scoping Start 05/18/2015 Est. Comment Period Public Notice 01/2016	Expected:04/2016	05/2016	Shannan Sharp 318-765-3554 sdsharp@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> The project would use herbicide to prevent re-sprouting of woody vegetation after timber stand improvement. It also proposes to increase the area of bottomland to be treated by 6500 acres, treat invasive species and adds prescribed fire.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=46967">http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=46967</a>				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Jackson. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Oakwood Bottoms and surrounding area.				
Erosion Abatement EA  *UPDATED*	- Watershed management	In Progress: Scoping Start 04/15/2015 Est. Comment Period Public Notice 01/2016	Expected:04/2016	05/2016	Paul Widowski 618-658-1017 pwidowski@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> This project would stabilize gullies and headcuts along tributaries to Cedar Lake, Kinkaid Lake and Lake of Egypt.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=47073">http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=47073</a>				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Jackson, Johnson, Williamson. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Water Supply watershed streams.				
Johnson Creek Boat Launch Dredging Project EA  *UPDATED*	- Watershed management	In Progress: Comment Period Public Notice 07/12/2015	Expected:03/2016	04/2016	Robert Monroe 618-658-2111 robertmonroe@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> The project involves hydraulic dredging of sediment from a shallow cove to maintain an open channel where small boats can launch and reach further into Kinkaid Lake.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=47209">http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=47209</a>				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Jackson. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Kinkaid Lake watershed.				

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This report contains the best available information at the time of publication. Questions may be directed to the Project Contact.